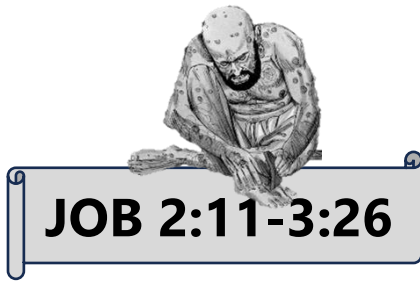


# Job's Birthday Curse



- hysterical strength: Angela Cavallo

## THE LONELINESS OF SUFFERING

(2:11-13)

- ▶ suffering is a lonely business <sup>1</sup>
  - o recognize this dimension to suffering
- ▶ the sufferer needs friends
  - o we need friends when we are suffering
  - o we need to be good friends to those who are suffering
  - o we need the ultimate lonely sufferer and friend



<sup>1</sup> Job 2:8; 7:3; 1 Samuel 23:16; Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Sarah Walton, *Tears & Tossings: Hope in the Waves of Life* (2022).

## THE DARKNESS OF SUFFERING

(3:1-26) <sup>2</sup>

- ▶ a true believer may curse their birth (vv.1-10)
  - o don't automatically feel guilty for feeling like this
  - o don't look down on those who feel like this
  - o beware of a certain type of Christianity
- ▶ a true believer may long for death (vv. 11-26)
  - o Don't take your own life, even though it's not the unforgiveable sin.
  - o It's okay to ask "Why?" questions.
  - o Look to the one who endured the deepest darkness for us.



<sup>2</sup> The bleak summary of Job 3: Job's suffering drives him to curse and lament the day of his birth and long for his death.

## Job 2:11-3:26

**2<sup>11</sup>** When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. **12** When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. **13** Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

**3<sup>1</sup>** After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. **2** He said:

**3** "May the day of my birth perish,  
and the night that said, 'A boy is conceived!'

**4** That day—may it turn to darkness;  
may God above not care about it;  
may no light shine on it.

**5** May gloom and utter darkness claim it once more;  
may a cloud settle over it;  
may blackness overwhelm it.

**6** That night—may thick darkness seize it;  
may it not be included among the days of the year nor be entered in any of the months.

**7** May that night be barren;  
may no shout of joy be heard in it.

**8** May those who curse days curse that day,  
those who are ready to rouse Leviathan.

**9** May its morning stars become dark;  
may it wait for daylight in vain  
and not see the first rays of dawn,

**10** for it did not shut the doors of the womb on me to hide trouble from my eyes.

**11** "Why did I not perish at birth,  
and die as I came from the womb?

**12** Why were there knees to receive me  
and breasts that I might be nursed?

**13** For now I would be lying down in peace;  
I would be asleep and at rest

**14** with kings and rulers of the earth, who built for themselves places now lying in ruins,

**15** with princes who had gold,  
who filled their houses with silver.

**16** Or why was I not hidden away in the ground like a stillborn child, like an infant who never saw the light of day?

**17** There the wicked cease from turmoil,  
and there the weary are at rest.

**18** Captives also enjoy their ease;  
they no longer hear the slave driver's shout.

**19** The small and the great are there,  
and the slaves are freed from their owners.

**20** "Why is light given to those in misery,  
and life to the bitter of soul,

**21** to those who long for death that does not come,  
who search for it more than for hidden

treasure,  
**22** who are filled with gladness  
and rejoice when they reach the grave?

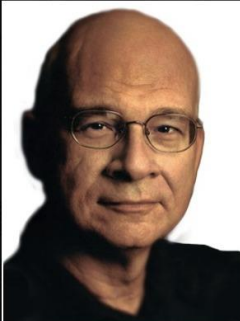
**23** Why is life given to a man  
whose way is hidden,  
whom God has hedged in?

**24** For sighing has become my daily food;  
my groans pour out like water.

**25** What I feared has come upon me;  
what I dreaded has happened to me.

**26** I have no peace, no quietness;  
I have no rest, but only turmoil."



	<p>The best people often have terrible lives. Job is one example, and Jesus—the ultimate 'Job,' the only truly, fully innocent sufferer — is another.</p> <p>— Timothy Keller —</p> <p>AZ QUOTES</p>
--	--

I walked a mile with Sorrow,  
and never a word said she;  
But oh, the things I learned from her,  
when sorrow walked with me.

Robert Browning Hamilton